Survey on the progress of NREG Scheme

994. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent survey on the progress of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, found that Gram Panchayats were associated only with the implementation of the scheme but had limited role in the planning and identification of works;

(b)whether wages paid to labourers under NREGA are lower than the minimum agricultural wages applicable in States;

(c) whether Schedule of Rates (SOR) for performing an assigned task has not been revised in most of the states; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir, As per Section 16 of the Act, Gram Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation process. They are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 50% of the works in terms of cost and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level.

(b) No, Sir. Wages are paid under NREGS in accordance with the wage rate fixed by the State Govt. under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers as per the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Act.

(c) and (d) States have been asked to get Work, Time and Motion Studies done by competent authorities for formulating the Schedule of Rates for various types of activities of work. Some States have already got these studies done and have formulated their SORs on the basis of such studies.

Linking villages with district headquarters

†995. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the extension of roads in rural areas is necessary for the development of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would formulate plan to connect the villages/settlements having population of at least 500 people to the district headquarters through road; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is under implementation as a fully funded centrally sponsored Plan scheme since 2000-01 the prime objective of the PMGSY is to provide all-weather connectivity to all the unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of 500 or more persons in the plain areas and all unconnected habitations with populations of 250 or more persons in the Hill States, desert areas and tribal areas. As per the latest estimates, about 1.79 lakh habitations are eligible to be covered under this Scheme. The PMGSY is likely to continue beyond 11th five year plan.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.